

MALLING
Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Health of the District

FOR THE YEAR 1906.

Maidstone:

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TO THE

MALLING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report for the year 1906.

The District under my care embraces :—

	Census 1891.	Census 1901.
Acres	38,527	38,527
Inhabited Houses	4,849	5,183
Population	24,747	24,701

The POPULATION estimated to the middle of the year 1906 is 24,678.

The BIRTHS registered during the year numbered 604. Of these 316 were males and 288 were females. 574 were legitimate and 30 illegitimate.

The BIRTH RATE for the year is 24·5 per 1,000 of the Population. The rates for the three preceding years 1903, 1904 and 1905 were 27·8, 26·5 and 25·9. The average rate for the past ten years is 27.

Last year's rate was the lowest on record for this District and the rate this year is more than 1 per 1,000 lower still.

The DEATHS registered during the year numbered 339, giving a Death Rate of 13·7 per 1,000 of the population. The rates for 1903, 1904 and 1905 were respectively 12·9, 13·1 and 12·6. The average rate for the past ten years is 14·4.

The number of CHILDREN DYING UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE is 69, giving a Rate of 114·2 per 1,000 births registered. The average of deaths for the past ten years is 86, with a Rate of 128. Of legitimate children 65 died and of illegitimate children 5.

DEATHS from the principal ZYMOTIC DISEASES numbered 36, giving a Rate of 1·4 per 1000 of the population. The Rates for 1903, 1904 and 1905 were respectively 1·5, 1·4 and ·85.

There occurred from	Scarlet Fever.....	5 deaths.
	Whooping Cough.....	3 ..
	Diphtheria	4 ..
	Influenza.....	1 ..
	Diarrhoea	22 ..
	Typhoid Fever	1 ..

No deaths were recorded from Measles.

Under the Act for the COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES there were reported 281 cases. The numbers reported during the three preceding years 1903, 1904 and 1905

were respectively 92, 145 and 261. The average for the past twelve years is 190, and this year's number has been only once exceeded, 285 cases were reported in 1899.

Of the 281 cases reported this year :—

156 were Scarlet Fever.
86 „ Diphtheria.
28 „ Erysipelas.
10 „ Typhoid Fever.
1 was Puerperal Fever.

The following Table, which is useful for reference, gives an analysis of cases reported since 1893. The Reports for the first three years were not, however, complete :—

YEAR.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid and Con- tinued Fever.	Puer- peral Fever.	Small Pox.	Erys- ipelas.	TOTAL.
1893	185	41					
1894	152	55					
1895	117	97	6				
1896	45	47	11	2	0	24	129
1897	13	85	18a	2	1	31	150
1898	12	83	36b	0	0	40	171
1899	131	83	6	1	0	54	285
1900	94	55	9	0	0	41	199
1901	56	53	16	3	15	17	160
1902	51	68	8	8	22c	20	172
1903	25	31	4	2	7	23	92
1904	64	54	5	0	0	22	145
1905	132	102	2	4	0	21	261
1906	156	86	10	1	0	28	281

a Maidstone Typhoid Epidemic.

b Epidemic at Wouldham and Ditton.

c General Small Pox Epidemic.

Of the SCARLET FEVER cases the large majority, 114 out of 156, occurred during the first six months of the year, and there were only 16 cases reported during the last quarter ; there is therefore good reason to believe that this extensive epidemic, lasting over two years, is now at an end. It has been very general, involving other districts even more severely than our own, as I gather from figures that are available.

Of the 156 cases reported this year, Snodland is responsible for 42, Eccles for 26, East Malling 22, Aylesford 16, Birling 9, Mereworth 8, West Malling and Burham 7 each, Addington and West Peckham 6 each, Ryarsh 3, Offham 2, Woudham and Ightham 1 each.

The type of disease has been peculiar. Commencing as a rule mildly there has been an exceptional tendency to complications of different kinds, and the infectious period in individual cases has been prolonged in consequence. Ear and nose troubles were very prevalent, and they are generally acknowledged to be a common cause of fresh outbreaks.

The number of very young children attacked has also been a noticeable feature during the past year. In June it became necessary to close the Infant Department of the British Schools at Snodland, and in July the whole school at East Malling was closed after a fruitless attempt to stay the outbreak by excluding children from the affected part of the parish.

The question has been continually presenting itself as to why the epidemic has persisted for so long that it might almost be said to be endemic, and this notwithstanding all the efforts made to combat it. It is true the disease has been repeatedly imported afresh into the district ; it is probably equally true that it has been often exported, but the neighbouring authorities have also been active in dealing with outbreaks, and all are acting together in the matter.

It is true the epidemic of 1893, 1894, and 1895 was both numerically larger and extended over a longer period ; also probably before the passing of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, epidemics were more extensive. Still, we are now in a much better position for dealing with infectious outbreaks, and the results both here and elsewhere do not give such satisfactory figures as one would wish. This subject in its wider aspects is beyond the scope of my Annual Report, but I may refer those interested to the abundant literature on the subject contained in the Reports of the Metropolitan Asylums Board and elsewhere.

I am inclined to attribute the obstinacy of our recent epidemic to the unusually large proportion of cases which were complicated by ear and nose troubles, and these complications are, as I have already mentioned, a frequent source of fresh infection. One case of this kind, in which the febrile stage has been so mild as to pass

almost unnoticed by the parents, may do infinite mischief in a school, and it is well-established that many cases of Scarlet Fever do pass undetected altogether, or are only discovered when complications supervene.

The death rate of Scarlet Fever for the year is 3·2 per cent.

Of DIPHTHERIA 86 cases were reported, and of this number considerably more than half (53 out of 86) came from the adjacent parishes of Eccles and Aylesford, Eccles being responsible for 35 and Aylesford for 18. Snodland reported 11 cases, Burham and West Malling each 6, Woudham, West Peckham, and Offham 2 each, Ditton, East Peckham, Addington, and Allington 1 each.

Eccles School was closed on account of an outbreak during a part of February and March.

At the beginning of May, when the Isolation Hospital was temporarily closed, the Hospital Staff Nurse voluntarily undertook to nurse the Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases at Eccles. The morning was devoted to one class of case and the afternoon to the other, careful disinfection taking place in the interval. The necessity for precautions and the practical means of taking precautions were demonstrated by the nurse to the parents and others as she did her work, and the result was most satisfactory.

Subsequent to this double outbreak I reported as follows to the Local Government Board :—“Eccles forms a part of the parish “of Aylesford, and roughly has 250 houses and a population of “about 1,250. During February, March, and April, Diphtheria “of a mild type was very prevalent. The Schools were closed on “February 20th for three weeks. In the course of April the “situation was complicated by an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, and “there were several cases in which the one disease was super- “added to the other, also the differential diagnosis in some of the “cases in their early stages became very difficult.

“As a result the Isolation Hospital was filled, but owing in “part to the fact that there were several cases of mixed infection “admitted to the Hospital it became necessary to close for a time. “The condition of Eccles was most unfortunate, the village con- “sisting almost exclusively of cement labourer’s cottages, and the “cement trade being very bad at the time. The only school is a “mixed and infant school, the elder boys and girls going to the “neighbouring schools of Aylesford and Burham. The Staff “Nurse at the Hospital was asked to volunteer to nurse the cases “in their own homes and especially to aid by instruction and “example in the careful isolation of all cases. All this she did “most efficiently and with excellent results. She was re-called “when the Hospital was ready to be re-opened. The “Diphtheria outbreaks both last autumn and this spring are “difficult to account for, but it is worthy of note that the village “had been exceptionally free in this particular for some years. “Then came the drainage scheme with the extensive turning up of “uncultivated grounds about the houses, and yards, and

"in the roads ; accompanied by the clearing away of old closets, "privy pits pipes and other abominations."

The death rate from Diphtheria was 4·6 per cent. higher than last year but eminently encouraging when compared with the rate before the general use of antitoxin.

Of the ten cases of TYPHOID FEVER reported one died. Two cases at Snodland came from one source, possibly also a third was connected with the other two ; the remaining seven cases occurred quite independently of each other, and in one case at least the disease was contracted outside the district.

From EPIDEMIC DIARRHœA and allied diseases there were 22 deaths. In 16 instances the victim was under one year of age and in four others was under five years. The trouble was especially prevalent during September, and the hop-pickers' children suffered severely.

Some of the hop-growers encourage and assist in the establishment of refreshment or coffee vans in the gardens, when babies' meals and wholesome food can be bought ready prepared almost under cost price. If such vans became general on the larger farms and some supervision were given to the babies' bottles and food, at any rate once during each day, without doubt the present distressing infant mortality would diminish.

Whooping Cough, Measles, and Mumps were not much in evidence till quite the end of the year, when both Whooping Cough and Measles began to be troublesome.

The following Tables of Vital Statistics are of interest :—

GENERAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Population estimated to the middle of the year.	Births.		Deaths.			
		Number.	Rate.	Under One Year.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate per 1000 of the Population.
1896	24,723	667	26·9	Not available.		363	14·6
1897	24,719	673	27·3	83	122·7	337	13·6
1898	24,714	688	27·8	109	158·4	395	15·9
1899	24,710	679	27·4	100	147·2	413	16·7
1900	24,705	653	26·4	92	140·9	385	15·6
1901	24,701	646	26·15	94	145·5	365	14·8
1902	24,696	686	27·7	76	110·8	352	14·2
1903	24,691	686	27·8	87	126·8	318	12·9
1904	24,687	653	26·4	74	107·2	324	13·1
1905	24,683	639	25·9	59	92·3	311	12·6
Average 1896-1905	24,703	667	27	86	128	356	14·4
1906	24,678	604	24·5	69	114·2	339	13·7

DEATH TABLE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards
Scarlet Fever	5	1	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	2	2	—	1	1
Epidemic Influenza.....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	22	16	4	1	—	—	1
Enteritis	9	5	3	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Septic Diseases	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Phthisis	23	—	—	2	3	17	1
Other Tubercular Diseases..	9	—	1	1	5	2	—
Cancer	19	—	—	—	1	12	7
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	22	6	6	1	—	—	9
Pneumonia	9	3	—	—	—	3	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver	5	—	—	—	—	3	2
Premature Birth	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Diseases	37	—	1	2	2	16	16
Accidents	11	—	—	—	1	10	—
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	3	—	—	—	1	2	—
Suicides	5	—	—	—	—	5	—
All other causes	136	23	7	7	4	25	70
All causes	339	69	28	16	18	98	110

The Mid Kent Water Company continue to supply a pure water, as shown by the periodical analyses.

The following table gives the results of seven analyses of water taken during the year.

The composition of the water varies but little.

YEAR 1906.	Average.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Free Ammonia0016	.003	.0005
Albuminoid Ammonia0008	.001	none.
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes ..	.0014	.004	none.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours.....	.0042	.007	.001
Total Solid Residue.....	23.71	25.36	21.6
Chlorine	1.8	1.95	1.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates and Nitrites	Trace.	.137	Trace.
Temporary Hardness	13.3	14.6	12.8
Permanent Hardness	3.7	4.4	3.2
Total Hardness.....	17.0	18.2	16.4

The following Table, formed from figures supplied me by the Company, shows the number of houses receiving water, and the advance made during the year, and since 1900 :—

	Snodland and Birling.	West Malling and Leybourne.	East Malling and Dittton.	Woulnham, Burham, and Ecclles.	Ryars and Addington.	Igtham.	Wattingbury and Mereworth.	Otham. Stanstead.	East Peckham.	Trosley.	Total.	
Dec. 31st, 1906.	971	503	527	777	177	210	165	41	57	59	7	3494
Dec. 31st, 1905.	936	474	519	722	166	182	156	32	41	49	5	3282
Dec. 31st, 1900.	697	345	389	522	26	58	49	0	0	0	0	2086
Increase during the past year.	35	29	8	55	11	28	9	9	16	10	2	212
Increase since 1900.	274	158	138	255	151	152	116	41	57	59	7	1408

A new reservoir, holding a million gallons of water, has been erected 60 feet above the old level in order to improve the supply to Malling, Wouldham and Burham.

A new pumping station capable of lifting 80,000 gallons per hour has also been opened at Halling.

The Hop-picking Season was a short one and epidemic Diarrhoea amongst the children was the principal source of illness. During the hot weather in early September this was very severe.

One case of Typhoid Fever occurred amongst the pickers. The source of disease in this case was distinctly traced to the patient's home outside the District.

Much more is now being done in the way of attending to the well-being of the pickers than used to be the case in former years I have already mentioned some of the advantages which are derived from the coffee vans in some of the larger gardens. Village Hopper Hospitals are also a great boon, and one or two fresh ones were started this year. There is also more nursing done amongst the pickers in their huts and tents.

The Housing of the Pickers has improved greatly on many farms, but there is still much room for improvement, especially where tents are employed. On one occasion I found at night no less than 18 souls in one old army tent of 12 feet diameter. In a former Report I advised that if army tents were used at all they should at any rate not be employed to shelter children, for which purpose they are quite unsuitable.

In my Report for 1904 and again in that for 1905, I wrote:—

"I have seen many tents in use which were not a proper protection from the weather, and in wet seasons much misery and sickness is the consequence. Children playing or rubbing against the canvas will frequently destroy its rainproof qualities, even if it is a good sound tent when fairly used, and therefore it is undesirable to accommodate children in them under any circumstances."

From enquiries made on the spot, I ascertained that in many cases the overcrowding was the fault of the pickers themselves.

At the beginning of the season a certain group of persons is allotted to each hut or tent, but in some cases after the first night or two the pickers re-arrange themselves, or friends arrive on a week-end visit and so certain huts become indecently overcrowded and most insanitary.

I suggest that it should be made compulsory for every farmer to keep a list of his huts and the names and ages of the pickers allotted to each and that the lists thus made should be open to inspection. It will then be easy to ascertain if the accommodation is sufficient for the pickers employed, and when overcrowding is found it will at once be obvious who is at fault.

The inspection of food offered for sale to the hop-pickers might usefully occupy one man's entire time.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are on the Register 23 Factories and 68 Workshops, a total of 91 Workshops.

Seven notices have been issued by the Inspector to remedy defects and in each case the remedy has been effected without necessity for any prosecutions. Two cases of overcrowding were found and both were remedied.

There are almost no outworkers employed in the District, so far as I have been able to ascertain they number two, and these two are only occasionally employed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—I desire especially to direct your attention to the conditions under which cows are milked. From time to time I have visited the different dairies in the District. I have almost always found that the milking utensils are cleanly kept and the cows at many dairies are fairly well housed, but I can only call to mind one dairy where I have found the cows milked under satisfactory conditions.

Regulation No. 17, 5 in your code, provides that a purveyor of milk "shall not cause or suffer any cow belonging to him or under his care or control to be milked for the purpose of obtaining milk for sale—

- (a) Unless, at the time of milking, the udder and teats of such cow are thoroughly clean ; and
- (b) Unless the hands of the person milking such cow, also are thoroughly clean and free from all infection and contamination."

I find that often the cows can only reach the milking sheds by skirting or passing through the straw yard, which usually is nothing more than a dung heap. In wet weather their udders get freely splashed with manure, and at other times they are, of course, liable to frequent contamination.

I find that often there is no kind of provision made for the milkers to wash their hands, unless a pail standing in the corner of a shed can be looked upon as such. Soap as a rule is not to be found, towels almost never, and if any provision is made for cleansing the teats. I am shown a dirty and offensive swab. The first milk is, as a rule, run into the pail and its condition must be horrible.

To remedy this state of affairs I propose—

- (1). That where possible an approach to the milking shed should be made which does not run through or round the straw yard.

(2). That a series of simple regulations should be printed similar to one of those issued by the large dairy companies, and that every purveyor of milk should place a copy in a conspicuous position in every cow-shed.

(3). That the Sanitary Inspector should be specially instructed to see that these regulations are strictly adhered to.

If all this was done we should secure milkers with clean hands and jackets, cows with clean teats and as a result we should have less manure and other filth mixed with our milk. The straining of milk is, of course, desirable, but it removes only the coarser particles of dirt.

The new works in connection with the Malling Sewage Farm started operations immediately before Christmas, and are now in full work. It is at present too early to say anything as to their efficiency.

The Scavenging Work is fully dealt with in the appended report of the Sanitary Inspector. The saving in cost has been effected, so far as I have been able to judge, without any sacrifice of efficiency. East Malling, Ditton and Woudham are the three parishes scavenged, and the system meets their needs, at any rate for the present. Dry scavenging is still in operation at Snodland, it is very necessary.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The staff now consists of a matron who also helps to nurse, a staff nurse, a probationer, a porter, a cook and a wardmaid.

The contract with the Kent Nursing Institution to supply nurses is no longer in force. The present arrangement works well and the staff is in all respects satisfactory.

One nurse contracted Scarlet Fever while nursing cases with that disease.

In the early part of the year there was a great demand for beds, and several cases were refused admission in consequence. There was at that time also a large proportion of serious cases.

On April 28th the Hospital was closed to allow of a thorough cleansing and disinfection of the buildings as the cases had of late not been doing well, and minor complications were numerous.

While the Hospital was closed the Staff Nurse took district nursing of infectious cases at Eccles as I have already stated.

The first case after re-opening was admitted on June 13th.

All particulars as to cases admitted, duration of stay in hospital, mortality, etc., are given in tabular form,

YEAR.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Smallpox.	Mistaken Diagnoses and Observation Cases	All Causes.	Total Adminis-tration.	Deaths.		All causes.
								Admissions.	Average stay in days.	
1897	13	49	45	21	0	42	0	—	—	4
1898	11	—	44	—	9	—	0	—	—	2
1899	75	—	51	—	0	—	0	—	—	3
1900	55	49	32	27	0	—	0	—	—	6
1901	32	44	29	28	1	36	13	2	—	0
1902	6	56	24	27	0	—	22	25	3	5
1903	23	46	16	40	1	4	7	31	3	6
1904	61	40	43	28	0	—	0	—	0	4
1905	123	44	72	30	0	—	0	—	1	3
1906	61	60	29	24	0	—	0	—	6	0
10 years average	46	48.5	38.5	28	11	20	43	33	.9	.5
									90.8	3.6

† Five of the six occurred immediately or within 48 hours of admission.

Year.	Total of Infectious Diseases		Total of Hospital Admissions.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid Fever.		Small Pox.				
	Notified	Others	Notified	Others	Notified	Cases	Notified	Cases	Notified	Cases	Notified	Cases	Notified	Cases	Admissions.
1897	119	59	13	13	85	45	18	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1898	131	64	12	11	83	44	36	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1899	231	126	131	75	83	51	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1900	158	87	94	55	55	32	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1901	143	77	56	32	53	29	16	1	15	13	22	22	22	22	22
1902	154	55	51	6	68	24	8	0	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
1903	69	50	25	23	31	16	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1904	123	104	64	61	54	43	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1905	240	195	132	102	72	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1906	253	90	156	61	86	29	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 years' average.	162	90.7	73.4	46	70	38.5	12.3	1.1	4.5	4.3					

Appended is the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

Year by year the work of all those connected with the Public Health duties tends to increase, and the Inspector's work is becoming more than a man can undertake single-handed. I am of opinion that help should be given to him in some form.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR H. ROBERTS.

February 15th, 1907.

The Limes, West Malling,
January 29th, 1907.

Dr. A. H. Roberts, Medical Officer of Health, Malling Rural District Council.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith submit my annual report with respect to my work for the year ending December 31st, 1906, as Inspector of Nuisances, inspector of Dairies and Cowsheds, Inspector of Factories and Workshops, Inspector of Canal Boats, and also as Surveyor of New Streets and Buildings to the Malling Rural District Council.

NUISANCES.

Accumulation of Refuse and Ashes	107
Drains blocked	44
Drains defective or insufficient	106
Defective sinks and wastepipes	16
Defective roofs, gutters, and stack pipes	26
Dirty Cowsheds	5
Dirty Bakehouses	7
Dirty Dwelling-houses	32
Dirty Slaughterhouses	2
Dangerous Wells.....	2
Defective Paving.....	14
Insufficient and defective cesspools	27
Ill-constructed Privies	37
Insufficient Water Closets	67
Insufficient water supply to dwelling-houses	6
Keeping Animals so as to be a nuisance.....	8
Overcrowding	4
Overflowing cesspools.....	28
Overflowing privies	21
Offensive ditches	4
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TOTAL	563
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The nuisances enumerated have generally been abated without it being found necessary to serve statutory notices, and only in one case was it found necessary to take proceedings for the abatement of nuisance of a structural nature; this case is embodied in my report of proceedings before the Justices. On intimation to owners of property of a nuisance existing, they or their agents have met me and have generally proceeded with the abatement of the nuisances complained of without delay.

The following cases were brought before the Justices, with the following results :—

Defective and ill-constructed drainage at six cottages, Malling Road, Snodland. Ordered to abate nuisance and pay costs.

Exposing unsound Bananas for sale at Offham. Fined 10/- and 11/- costs.

Breach of Bye-laws. Alleged commencing to lay out New Street without submitting plans. Case dismissed, each side to bear their own costs.

SCAVENGING.

SNODLAND.—During the year the Scavenger reported removal of 1017 loads of refuse as compared with 950 loads in 1905.

WOULDHAM.—The scavenging in this parish still continues to be carried out satisfactorily. Although I have received no returns, there has not been a complaint made throughout the year.

EAST MALLING AND DITTON.—In these parishes the work is done by direct labour, and I am pleased to be in a position to report that the work has been carried out efficiently, and my confidence of a further substantial reduction of cost has been fully realized this year, showing a saving of £115 16s. 10d. as compared with the previous year. This saving has been brought about by the great reduction of Horse Hire, and by the foreman, Wm. Jenner, co-operating with me in endeavouring to reduce the cost of scavenging as low as possible. We have also been materially helped by several unselfish owners constructing scum tanks and overflow filters, whereby there have been 948 less number of loads removed from cesspools, but on the other hand there have been 56 more cesspools pumped out on to adjoining lands than in the previous year; also there has been a greater amount of scavenging of earth and pail closets, also refuse and ashes. I feel, however, that a most satisfactory result has been obtained and trust our endeavours will meet with the Council's approval. I herewith submit summary of work for 1906, and an extract from report of work for 1905.

1906.

Quarter ending.	Loads removed from Cesspools.	Cesspools pumped out.	Loads Removed from Privies.	No. of Earth Closets Emptied.	No. of Pails Emptied.	Loads of Refuse Removed.
March	535	35	78	438	2,230	112
June	511	25	72	409	2,280	88
Sept.	471	24	65	344	2,316	84
Dec.	418	24	53	460	2,280	99
Totals	1,935	108	268	1,651	9,166	383

COST OF HORSE HIRE AND LABOUR.

	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Labour ..	40 18 10	39 9 10	39 3 6	39 19 10	159 12 0
Horse hire	82 15 0	79 10 8	77 16 8	64 7 0	304 9 4
Totals .. £	123 13 10	119 0 6	116 0 2	104 6 10	464 1 4
Add Bonus to Foreman				5 0 0	
					£469 1 4

EXTRACT, 1905.

	£ s. d.
Labour (including Bonus to Foreman)	177 18 2
Horse Hire	407 0 0
Total.....	£584 18 2
Total cost 1906	469 1 4
Shewing saving in cost the sum of.....	£115 16 10

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

I have during the year visited and inspected the several slaughterhouses in the district, and, with the exception of two cases, found them clean and well kept. I called upon the occupiers of the two slaughterhouses to cleanse and limewhite, and on my re-visiting I found the premises in a satisfactory condition. In the previous year I had to call upon the occupiers of five slaughterhouses.

HOP-PICKERS DWELLINGS, &c.

During the year I visited and inspected the various hopper huts and sheds, and found them generally satisfactory. There was only one case of infectious disease amongst the hop-pickers (a case of typhoid), and this on enquiry was found to be an imported case. I think this is very satisfactory considering that close upon 11,000 emigrant hop-pickers came into the district.

The circular letter issued by the Council did a considerable amount of good in respect to the water supply for the pickers, and wherever the Company's supply was laid on the farm premises, the supply was constant and unlimited.

I seized some rotten bananas exposed for sale at Offham, and the owner of same was fined, the sale of unsound fruit no doubt causing a considerable amount of diarrhoea, and there was a large demand for the diarrhoea mixture provided by the Council. The food supply otherwise was good.

I reported two cases of overcrowding, and these occurred within a couple of days of the completion of hop-picking. The explanation of the cause was accepted and no action was taken. The Local Government Inspector, Dr. Farrar, visited the district this season and inspected several of the hopper settlements, and made suggestions as to the better ventilation of a few of the hopper-huts, and also took exception to some of the tents. With respect to the tents, I have for several years reported as to the use of the condemned Government tents, and I am still of opinion that they should not be used, especially for the housing of women and children. There is a steady increase in the erection of portable huts suitable for one family, and it is to be hoped that more may be added next year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I have during the year visited and inspected the various Factories and Workshops in the district, and have had occasion to call upon the occupiers of seven bakehouses to cleanse and lime-white their premises. This is two more than last year. On re-inspection I found that the bakehouses were cleansed satisfactorily. There were also two cases of overcrowding, and in calling the occupiers' attention the overcrowding was abated without it being found necessary to serve statutory notices.

One factory owner voluntarily reconstructed the drainage of his premises and also provided extra sanitary conveniences. These premises are situated at Snodland. The paper mills at Snodland, which were destroyed by fire, are being re-built.

During the year I have registered nine Workshops and one Factory.

There are now on the register 23 Factories and 68 Workshops.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

I have from time to time visited and inspected the various Cowsheds and Dairies in the district and have called upon the occupiers to cleanse five cowsheds. This is two less than last year. The work has been done without statutory notice being served. The Dairies I have in all cases found clean and satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS.

I have during the year visited the several Wharves and Sidings in the district, and have made 14 inspections.

I found one vessel contravening the regulations, *i.e.*, dirty cabin, and I served notice upon the owner to cleanse and paint the

cabin. The vessel was the *Jubilee*, R.R. 200, Rochester. I afterwards visited and found the complaint had been remedied.

With the one exception I found the boats generally clean and satisfactory. I did not find any children on any of the boats, neither were there any cases of infectious disease reported.

I made over 100 visits to the Wharves and Sidings, but as in previous years found it very difficult to make any great number of inspections, as the cabins of the vessels in most cases directly they are made fast are locked, and I cannot find anyone in charge.

AYLESFORD AND BURHAM DRAINAGE.

The work of connecting to the Council's sewer is nearly completed, only a few remaining. The drainage of the thirty premises left over from last year have been connected during the year, and I have received three plans for the connection of eight more houses and premises, one at Burham and two at Eccles.

WEST MALLING OUTFALL WORKS.

The installation of septic tank and triple filters has been in progress of erection the greater part of the year and the old system was discontinued on December 21st and the new connected up, the first discharge of filtrate taking place on December 22nd. It is to be hoped that these works will prove satisfactory.

NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS

During the year the Council have had before them for consideration 80 plans (as compared with 65 in the previous year). Of these eight were referred back and one not approved.

The following buildings were approved :—

- 38 Houses as compared with 53 in 1905.
- 32 Additions to Houses as compared with 25 in 1905.
- 1 Mortuary.
- 4 Shops as compared with 1 in 1905.
- 4 Factories and Workshops as compared with 6 in 1905
- 5 Additions to Factories and Workshops.
- 2 Cowsheds as compared with 1 in 1905.
- 2 Dairies.
- 3 Stables as compared with 3 in 1905.
- 3 Additions to Schools including lavatories and drainage

Total 94 Buildings as compared with 89 in 1905.

The case that came before the Justices *re* contravention of the bye-laws *re* New Streets, at Lunsford Lane, East Malling, was dismissed, each side paying their own costs.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES SOUTER.